

5. WHAT IS THE BEST MEANS OF CONTROL AND  
DESTRUCTION OF FLYING FOXES [*PTEROPUS*  
*GIGANTEUS* (BRÜNN.)?]

With reference to the note on the above subject in Vol. 50, No. 2, pages 401-403, this question has been studied by Messrs. I.C.I. (India) Ltd., and they advise the use of explosives where possible. The full text of their note on the matter is given herewith:

'The suggested method of killing flying foxes is by concussion. It is essential, in order to produce a shock-wave of sufficient intensity, that a fairly big charge is fired instantaneously. We suggest that a 10-lb. charge, suspended from a branch of the tree in which the flying foxes roost but not in contact with any of the branches, would produce a big enough blast to kill most of the flock.

It is difficult to predict the effect of air blast on such things as windows as this depends largely upon the topography of the surrounding area. We consider however that a distance of 200 yds. from a bungalow, provided windows are opened and personnel within that radius are under cover should be sufficient for safety. We agree with Mr. Gee's suggestion that an Electric Exploder should be used as by this method the charge can be prepared and later fired from a safe distance at the best time.

The explosive which we suggest is Opencast Gelignite which has a high velocity of detonation when primed with a No. 6 Detonator. This explosive is available in 50-lb. cases which contain five 10-lb. cartridges. No. 6 Detonators, Electric or Ordinary, can be obtained readily from stock.

As regards the device for scaring away other wild life (e.g. wild elephants), we suggest that Mr. Gee approaches a firework manufacturer who should be able to make up crackers suitable for his purpose.'

DOYANG TEA ESTATE,  
OATING P.O.,  
ASSAM,  
September 11, 1952.

E. P. GEE

6. OUR VANISHING WILD LIFE

The almost complete absence of pig, muntjac and porcupine from the higher altitudes (4,500 ft. to 5,500 ft.) of this range (the Billigirirangans—North Coimbatore) possibly account for the comparative rarity of panther in these parts—a feature of the past seven or more years. During this period wild dog have also become uncommon, while bear have increased greatly. Tiger appear in the same area far less frequently now than in the war and pre-war years. This, I think, is due to wholesale poaching of the sambar on the hills during the